

R. Whitty, B.A., M.D., Minna Lodge, Hunstanton, Norfolk; Major Charles L. Williams, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Coimbatore, South India; William C. Wright, Charlevoix, Marlborough Park, Belfast; Lieut. Martin Young, 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regt., Mhow, India.

Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, was elected a Colonial Member, and Geh. Hofr. Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Blasius, of Brunswick, was elected a Foreign Member of the Union.

After a vote of thanks to the Council of the Zoological Society of London for the use of their rooms had been unanimously agreed to, the Meeting adjourned.

The Annual Dinner, subsequently held at the Trocadero Restaurant (Dr. F. DuCane Godman in the Chair), was attended by twenty-four Members and one Guest.

XXXIV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 304.]

62. *André's 'Naturalist in the Guianas.'*

[A Naturalist in the Guianas. By Eugène André, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S. With a Preface by Dr. J. Scott Keltie. London, Smith Elder & Co., 1904. 1 vol., 8vo.]

The instructive paper on the birds of the Orinoco Region by Count Hans v. Berlepsch and Mr. Hartert, published in the ninth volume of 'Novitates Zoologicae' (see 'Ibis,' 1902, p. 505), was partly based on a collection of 1800 skins made by Mr. Eugène André on the Caura River, an important tributary of the Orinoco. We have now a most interesting account of the adventures met with by Mr. André while engaged in the exploration of this little-known river and in the formation of his collection. He did not, however, confine his attention entirely to birds, but also obtained many specimens of mammals, butterflies, and orchids.

Mr. André is evidently a highly cultivated and well-instructed man, with great enthusiasm for Natural History in all its branches, and writes in excellent style. His

narrative contains many adventurous incidents, particularly the account of his last return from the Upper Caura, in which he lost all his precious collections, notes, and photographs, and barely escaped with his life. But what specially commends his work to our attention are the many good field-notes on the characteristic birds of the Venezuelan forests, such as the Tree-Ducks, Wood-Nightjars, Trumpeters, Curassows, Sun-Bitterns, and Cassiques, on all of which will be found valuable information given in a few pregnant sentences. We have, indeed, seldom come across a more instructive and engaging narrative, and can cordially recommend its perusal to all our friends. Two coloured plates by Keulemans illustrate the King Tody (*Muscivora coronata*) and the Paradise Tanager (*Calliste paradisica*).

63. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History, Nos. 49 & 50, January and April 1904.]

It is well known that the Hawfinch has gradually extended its range northwards during the last hundred years, and in the January number of the 'Annals' Mr. William Berry establishes the fact that this species now nests as far north as Fifeshire. That it is a resident in the south-east of Scotland is indicated by the occurrence of an adult (in a starved condition) at Tynninghame during the third week in February last (p. 126). The list of instances shewing the value of observations at lighthouses receives an important addition in Mr. W. Eagle Clarke's record of the occurrence of an example of *Emberiza pusilla* at the Pentland Skerries on October 15th; this being the first for Scotland and the third for Great Britain. A further proof of the interest taken in natural history at outlying stations is afforded by Mr. James Tomison's papers (pp. 16-26 and 91-98) on the inhabitants of Sule Skerry, belonging to the Orkney group. In October 1895 a lighthouse was erected, and there the author has spent the seven years which have furnished the valuable experiences now set forth. These appear to be conscientiously limited to personal

observations, and consequently few particulars are given respecting that great breeding-place of Gannets and Guillemots, the Stack, about four miles off, to which, no doubt, Mr. Tomison's duties would not permit many visits. For what he has done he merits the warm thanks of ornithologists; and it will be remembered that on September 5th, 1902, Sule Skerry provided the second British example of the Greenish Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus viridanus*). Among the usual Notes, attention may especially be directed to Mr. William Evans's record of the remarkable visitation of Rough-legged Buzzards.—H. S.

64. *Arrigoni Degli Oddi's 'Manual of Italian Ornithology.'*

[Manuale di Ornitologia Italiana. Elenco descrittivo degli Uccelli Stazionari o di Passaggio finora osservati in Italia del Conte Dott. E. Arrigoni Degli Oddi. Milano, 1904. 1 vol., 12mo, 908 pp.]

This is a Manual of Italian Ornithology of small size but thick—the first, so far as we know, that has been issued in this form—and is likely to do much in popularising the study of bird-life in Italy and the adjoining districts. It is distinctly printed, and is well illustrated by 401 figures in the text besides 36 (uncoloured) plates, which in most cases are fairly good, though we cannot say that they are all of first-rate quality.

The first 160 pages are devoted to introductory matter, and contain a large amount of general information on the structure, distribution, migration, and other attributes of bird-life. Then follows the systematic portion, in which the 445 species recognised by the author as belonging to the Italian Ornis are described and discussed.

The arrangement and nomenclature employed are those of the author's 'Atlante Ornitologico' (see 'Ibis,' 1902, p. 657). As already stated, we do not quite agree with every point in them; but there is nothing extreme in the mode of treatment. It seems to us that we have before us a good sound piece of work, which is likely to be much appreciated wherever the charming tongue in which it is written is spoken or understood.

65. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxi. Nos. 1 & 2, January and April 1904.]

The first important paper in the January number is by Mr. Walter K. Fisher, who describes the manners and customs of the Albatroses (chiefly *Diomedea immutabilis* Rothschild), as observed on the Island of Laysan. It is profusely illustrated by photogravures, and many of the exemplifications of the capacity of these birds for social flirtations and quarrels, dancing, and sham fights are quaint in the extreme*. Mr. A. C. Bent follows with descriptions and illustrations of the nesting of the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaja ajaja*), White Ibis (*Guara alba*), and other Herodiones in Florida, where the birds are now protected. A continuation and conclusion of this paper, with further illustrations, is to be found on pp. 259-270 of the April number. Mr. Spencer Trotter's remarks on some Nova-Scotian Birds form an interesting contribution regarding a district which is little known to ornithologists; and Mr. O. Widmann's paper on the Birds of the Yosemite Valley demonstrates the efficacy of protection by the exclusion of the use of firearms in that area. Records of the occurrence of the Knot at San Diego, California, the Ruff at Rhode Island, and a Sanderling with rudimentary hind-toes at Ipswich, Mass., are among the General Notes for January.

In the April number Mr. Breninger has an interesting paper on the Birds of San Clemente Island, off Southern California; Mr. Snodgrass writes on the Land-Birds of Central and South-eastern Washington; and Mr. Eifrig makes a long contribution on the Birds of Allegany and Garrett Counties, Western Maryland. An essay by Mr. W. M. Wheeler on "The Obligations of the Student of Animal Behaviour" is followed by some characteristic correspondence between Audubon in his sixty-third year and Spencer F. Baird at the age of nineteen; these letters being communicated by Mr. Ruthven Deane. Other items are mainly of local interest.

* For further details see below, p. 466, and 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 145.

In this category, however, must not be included a contribution which forms more than half of the January number, and deserves a paragraph to itself. We refer to the Report of the A.O.U. Committee on the Protection of North American Birds for the year 1903, by the Chairman, Mr. William Dutcher (pp. 97-208, pls. xii.-xviii.). The Audubon Societies and the contributors to the Thayer fund have every reason to be satisfied with the progress made, as is shown by the maps on which are indicated the States which take part in the work of protection. Among the suggestions for the future is the imposition of a tax upon cats, "for there is no doubt that millions of birds are killed in the United States and Canada every year by cats." As examples of what has been done a few instances may be given. In Florida between three and four thousand Pelicans have been raised on one Reservation; several species of Terns have enormously increased; and the colonies of Noddy and Sooty Terns on the Dry Tortugas are the delight of the naturalist-photographer. Against the plume-hunters warders are employed, fearless men, not to be trifled with, having the reputation of being the best rifle-shots in the vicinity, and they would "not hesitate to shoot when necessary." Of course, we do not advocate the employment of such methods of protection in this country, for it would be illegal to do so. But passing to the less "rough and ready" North-eastern States, we read highly encouraging reports from Maine, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Space will not allow us to say more; but we recommend our readers to turn to this report, with its photogravure illustrations, and judge of the good work which is being done throughout North America.—H. S.

66. '*Avicultural Magazine*.'

[*Avicultural Magazine*. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. ii, Nos. 4-7, 1904. R. H. Porter, London. 8vo. Price 1s. 6d. per number.]

In these four numbers various writers treat of single species of birds, the most interesting of which are *Chrysolis guildingi*, *Geocichla cyanonotus*, and *Cinclosoma punctatum* (the

two former each with a coloured, and the latter with a plain plate), while Mr. Russell Humphrys describes a ramble in Ceylon, and Mr. T. H. Newman relates experiments as to the fertility of some Turtle-Dove hybrids (plate). More noteworthy, however, are Mr. St. Quintin's articles on the breeding of the Great Bustard in captivity and on the nesting-habits of *Talegalla lathamii*, to the second of which a paper by Mr. A. E. L. Bertling (the head keeper at the Zoological Gardens) acts as a supplement. The Editor has some interesting notes on the habits of *Phaps elegans* (plate) and gives reproductions of illustrations of the young of *Ardea candidissima* and of *Phasianus principalis*.

67. *Barrett-Hamilton on the Winter Whitening of certain Animals.*

[Abstract of a physiological hypothesis to explain the Winter Whitening of Mammals and Birds inhabiting Snowy Countries, and the more striking points in the distribution of white in Vertebrates generally. By Capt. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton. Proc. R. Irish Acad. xxiv. 1903, pp. 303-314.]

Naturalists are agreed that white coloration is a protection to animals in snowy countries, and Capt. Barrett-Hamilton now suggests that fat plays a direct part in animal coloration. He considers that the temporary cessation of metabolism of fat and the absence of pigment may be parts of the same process; while he finds that animals are, at least as a rule, lightest in colour where the accumulation of fat is greatest. In mammals, for instance, not only may new hairs in such parts be white, but the colour may be actually withdrawn from the old hairs, though no case has been found by the author in which the white hairs regained their pigment.

68. *Bartsch on the Herons of the District of Columbia.*

[Notes on the Herons of the District of Columbia. By Paul Bartsch. Smiths. Misc. Coll. vol. xxv. pp. 104-111.]

This is a nicely written account of the manners and habits of the Ardeidæ that are found in the District of Columbia, where the two arms of the Potomac "afford splendid

grounds" for these and other water-birds. Nine of the eighteen members of the Heron-family that are found in North America are met with in this district and four have been detected breeding there. The most abundant species is the American Night-Heron (*Nycticorax naevius*), to which the author has paid special attention; but the other Herons are also specified and their habits described. The paper is illustrated by several photographic plates of nests, eggs, and young.

69. 'Cassinia.'

[Cassinia. Proceedings of the Delaware Ornithological Club, No. vii. Philadelphia, 1903, 88 pp.]

The articles in this part are almost entirely of local interest; but the first of them is an account of the life and work of the well-known ornithologist J. K. Townsend, who not only visited the Western United States in company with Nuttall and discovered several new species of birds, but also proceeded with the same companion to the Sandwich Islands, and subsequently touched at Tahiti and Valparaiso.

70. Clarke on the Migration of Birds.

[Bird Migration in Great Britain and Ireland. Sixth and Final Report of the Committee, consisting of Professor Newton (Chairman), Rev. E. P. Knubley (Secretary), Mr. John A. Harvie-Brown, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Mr. A. H. Evans, and Dr. H. O. Forbes, appointed to work out the details of the Observations on the Migration of Birds at Lighthouses and Lightships, 1880-1887. Rep. Brit. Assoc. (Southport) 1903, 16 pp.]

Mr. Clarke's final Report summarises the movements on migration of the Starling and the Rook, those of the former species being singularly varied and not confined to any particular season, while the latter for the most part seeks our shores in autumn and departs in spring, when not a resident. Every ornithologist will regret that such excellent work should have reached its final stage, though doubtless the results in the case of further species would not have led to an extension of our knowledge commensurable with the labour required. We can never be too thankful to Mr. Clarke for his work, admirable alike in its clearness and accuracy, while, as

the Committee observe, one main point has been abundantly proved, namely that species which are resident as a whole are decidedly migratory as regards individuals. The author's summaries have, moreover, been an excellent test of the reliability of the "Digest of Observations," as he himself tells us.

71. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Melbourne. Vol. iii. pt. 3. Price 4s. per part.]

A moiety of this part of 'The Emu' consists of an account of the Annual Congress of the Union in 1903, held for the first time in Tasmania, at the town of Hobart. The President, Col. W. V. Legge, whose portrait is given, reviews the work of the year, while suggestions are made for a Check-List of Australasian birds and for obtaining information from Light-houses. Subsequently Mr. A. J. Campbell treats of the decade 1894-1903 from an ornithological point of view, and remarks on species which he considers to be ascribed to wrong genera, judging from oological characteristics. Mr. T. Carter continues his interesting notes on the region of the North-West Cape, Mr. A. W. Milligan discusses the Western *Gymnorhinae* (plate), Col. Legge suggests some rectifications in the Tasmanian Ornis, Mr. F. L. Jardine reports encouragingly on the case of the Nutmeg-Pigeon (*Myristicivora spilorrhoda*), and in conclusion the usual general notes are given. There are plates of the nest of *Acanthornis magna*, of *Gymnorhina dorsalis*, and of the playground of *Scenopæus dentirostris*.

72. Fisher on the Birds of Laysan.

[Birds of Laysan and the Leeward Islands, Hawaiian Group. By Walter K. Fisher, U.S. Fish-Comm. Bull. 1903, pp. 1-39. Washington.]

Ornithologists may have supposed that Mr. Rothschild's splendid book had exhausted the subject of the birds of Laysan, but this seems not to have been quite the case. Mr. Walter K. Fisher, of Leland Stanford Junior University, spent a week

in Laysan in May 1902, while on a cruise in the U.S. Fish-Commission Steamer 'Albatross.' He now gives us a most interesting series of notes, on what he truly calls "one of the most remarkable bird-islands in the world;" these make up the greater portion of the present report, the remainder relating to some of the other "Leeward Islands" of the Hawaiian group, which were also visited.

The number of species of birds found on Laysan and its adjoining islets is not great, there being only 18 sea-birds and 5 land-birds. But the birds are very remarkable for the multitude of individuals and for their "surprising tameness."

"The effect of this is at first nearly overpowering. Birds are everywhere, and the noise is sometimes deafening. When we made our way through a populous colony of Sooty Terns we had to exercise much care to avoid crushing their eggs and treading on the birds, which struggled panic-stricken before us. If we would converse it was necessary to shout."

Many of the species are restricted to definite localities. Thus *Diomedea nigripes* breeds on the sand-beaches on the north, east, and south sides of Laysan, but not elsewhere. *Sula cyanops* is restricted to a narrow sedge-covered slope on the same sides. *Sterna lunata* chooses the summit of the littoral slope all round the island. *Sterna fuliginosa* encircles the islet in a wide band, inside the ring of *S. lunata*. *Æstrelata hypoleuca* burrows in the deep sand throughout the area covered with tall grass down to the open plain, where in favourable places it is replaced by *Puffinus cuneatus*, which encircles the central lagoon in a ring inside the enormous colony of *Æstrelata*.

Only three Passerine birds are mentioned — *Himatione freethi*, *Telespiza cantans*, and *Acrocephalus familiaris*, all of which were found breeding.

The memoir is illustrated by a coloured plate of the new Tern (*Procellisterna savatilis*) discovered in Necker Island (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 416), and by a series of photographic views of the bird-life and scenery of the islands visited.

73. *Flower on the Zoological Gardens at Giza.*

[Government of Egypt, Public Works Department. Zoological Gardens, Giza, near Cairo. Report for the Year 1903. By Stanley S. Flower, Director. Cairo, 1904.]

Capt. Stanley Flower's report on the beautiful gardens under his care at Giza gives a favourable account of their progress and increase in popularity during the past year. Examples of 201 species of birds have been exhibited since October 1898, among which we see the names of such interesting forms as *Corvus umbrinus*, *Chrysotis rhodoccephala*, *Buteo ferox*, and *Balaeniceps rex*. No less than 71 species have been observed as visiting these well-planted gardens "of their own accord" during the same period. Among these are such attractive birds as *Aëdon galactodes*, *Emberiza caesia*, *Ceryle rudis*, and *Ædicnemus scolopax*.

74. *Fulton on the Habits of the Long-tailed Cuckoo of New Zealand.*

[The Long-tailed Cuckoo. Abstract of a paper read by Dr. R. Fulton before Section D, Biology, at the Science Conference in Dunedin, January 11th, 1904.]

This paper contains a very complete and interesting account of the habits of the Long-tailed Cuckoo of New Zealand (*Urodynamis taitensis*), which were not well known to Sir Walter Buller when he wrote the second edition of his 'History of the Birds of New Zealand' in 1888. Like our Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), the bird appears to be thoroughly parasitic. It is found in most of the island-groups of the Pacific, but visits New Zealand in the Antarctic summer for breeding purposes, and deposits its eggs in the nests of various small Passerine birds, who save it the trouble of incubation and devote unceasing attention to the young when they are hatched. Dr. Fulton gives a list of sixteen species which are known, with more or less certainty, to be the foster-parents of *Urodynamis*.

The author also discusses the reasons which may have given rise to this remarkable habit in Cuckoos and other birds.

75. *Hartert on the Birds of Wetter and other Islands near Timor.*

[The Birds of the South-west Islands Wetter, Roma, Kisser, Letti, and Moa. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. xi. p. 174 (1904).]

Mr. Hartert writes on the birds of the "South-west Islands," as the Dutch call them, which lie to the north and east of Timor. He has already described those of Dammer (Nov. Zool. 1900, p. 12), and now proceeds to tell us what the indefatigable collector Kühn has sent to Tring from Wetter, Roma, Kisser, Letti, and Moa. In an article in 'Notes from the Leyden Museum' (xxii. p. 225), Dr. Finsch has already treated of the ornithology of some of these islands from specimens in the Leyden Museum. But additional materials are now at Tring, and, as it is here pointed out, the subject is handled from a somewhat different point of view, as Dr. Finsch is a strong adherent of the old-fashioned binomialism, "not considering very slight differences sufficient for *specific* separation," while to Mr. Hartert "no differences are too slight for *subspecific* separation, if connected with geographical separation."

After a short description of the five islands of which Wetter, only 40 kil. north of Timor, is the largest and has some "very striking peculiar species"—such as *Alopocœnus hoedti*, *Sphæcotheres hypoleucus*, *Stigmatops notabilis*, and *Myzomela kuehni*, "although the Fauna is mostly Timorese,"—the author gives us a general list of the species accompanied by numerous notes and critical remarks. In all 140 species and subspecies are catalogued, amongst which the following are described as new to science:—

Ptilonopus cincta ottonis, *Ptilonopus xanthogaster rufipileum*, *Halcyon australasia interposita*, *H. enigma*, *Cyornis hyacinthina kuehni*, *Gerygone kisserensis sequens*, *Rhipidura rufiventris pallidiceps*, *Pachycephala par*, *P. par compar*, *Cinnyris solaris exquisita*, *C. s. degener* (ex Flores), *Oriolus flavo-cinctus migrator*, *Oriolus finschi*, and *Catornis kuehni*.

76. Madarász on new Birds.

[(1) Drei neue Palæarctische Vogelarten. Von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Ann. Nat. Mus. Hungar. 1903, pp. 559, 560.

(2) Ueber neue Formen von *Haleyon smyrnensis* und *Alcedo ispida*. *Id. op. cit.* 1904, pp. 1, 2.

(3) Neue Vogelarten aus Venezuela. *Id. t. c.* pp. 115, 116 (pl.).

(4) Zur Ornithologie Deutsch-Ostafrikas. *Id. t. c.* pp. 203-206.]

Dr. Madarász has sent us four short papers in which, besides new forms of Kingfishers, he treats of twelve new species from various parts of the world. *Merula algira*, from the north-east coast of Algiers, approaches the Canary Island *M. cabrera*, but only the male is known; *Cinclus kibarti*, from the Krasnoiarisk district, lies between *C. sordidus* and *C. bilkevitchi*; *C. caucasicus*, from the Caucasus, is near *C. cashmeriensis*; *Thryothorus consobrinus*, *Strix stictica*, and *Eupsychortyx horváthi* (col. pl.) come from Merida in Venezuela, and are placed next to *T. genibarbis*, *S. flammea*, and *E. cristatus* respectively; German East Africa furnishes, through M. Katona, *Chaetops kilimensis* from Moschi, *Cisticola katonæ* from Boma-Gomb, *C. pictipennis* from Moschi, *Chlorophoneus miniatus* from Kiboscho, *Laniarius ambiguus* from Kiboscho and Moschi, *Prodotiscus reichenowi* from Moschi. *Elainea gularis* and *Dendrocyttastes berlepschi* (Ann. Nat. Mus. Hungar. 1903) are now reduced to synonyms of *Mecocerculus sitophagoides* (Bp.) and *Dendrocolaptes validus* (Tsch.) respectively.

77. North on the Nest of a Bower-bird.

[Description of the Nest of the Guttated Bower-bird, *Chlamydodera guttata*. By A. J. North, C.M.Z.S. Rec. Austr. Mus. vol. v. pt. 2 (1903).]

Mr. North describes and figures the nest of *Chlamydodera guttata* obtained at Illamurta, Central Australia, by Mr. C. E. Cowle. Only two instances had been previously recorded. The eggs have been described and figured in the second part of the 'Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania.'

78. *North on a new Pachycephala.*

[Description of a new Species of *Pachycephala*. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Rec. Austr. Mus. vol. v. pt. 2 (1904).]

The species described is *P. howensis*, from Lord Howe Island, allied to *P. gutturalis*, but distinguished by its olive-green tail, with a smaller and less distinct subterminal blackish-brown band.

The name "*meridionalis*" is suggested for the darker-grey-tailed form of the group of *P. gutturalis* from South Australia and West Victoria, in case it may be thought necessary to distinguish it from the West-Australian *P. occidentalis*.

79. *Wood and Finn on Birds from Upper Burmah.*

[On a Collection of Birds from Upper Burmah. By Lieut. H. Wood and F. Finn. J. A. S. B. lxxi. part ii. pp. 121-131 (1902).]

The collection there described was made by Lieut. Wood in the hilly districts of Upper Burmah, between 22° and 20° 15' N. lat., and presented by him to the Indian Museum, Calcutta, where it was specially acceptable as containing examples of several rare species. After a general description of the country, the localities visited are mentioned, and their exact positions are given. The list enumerates 77 species, among which *Parus palustris* and *Babax lanceolatus* are new to the Indian Fauna. In case the *Babax* should prove to be different to the Chinese bird of David and Oustalet, the alternative name *B. woodi* is suggested for it. A male specimen of *Phasianus humia*, obtained at Kampetlet, differs slightly from the typical form of Manipur.

XXXV.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—As in last year's 'Ibis' (1903, p. 149) the announcement of the scientific expedition sent out by the Imperial-Royal